

## House Resolution 1275

By: Representatives Crawford of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Mitchell of the 88<sup>th</sup>, Miller of the 62<sup>nd</sup>, and Kendrick of the 95<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. Thomas L. Coleman; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
3 with the passing of Dr. Thomas L. Coleman on January 31, 2026; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Dr. Coleman served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the  
5 United States Air Force, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans for  
6 more than 25 years and serving in the Vietnam War; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Dr. Coleman had a long and devoted professional life of public service in  
8 Georgia, including as Chief of Staff to former DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer  
9 Burrell Ellis as well as more than 12 years with the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice,  
10 where he served as Chief Deputy Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Program's  
11 Education and Youth Development Division; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Dr. Coleman was a former Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety  
13 and served for more than a decade as a commissioner with the DeKalb County Housing  
14 Authority, as well as with the Housing Development Corporation of DeKalb County; and

15 WHEREAS, he also served as a board member of the Georgia Department of Juvenile  
16 Justice, vice-chaired the Georgia Piedmont Technical College Board of Directors, chaired  
17 the 4th Congressional District of Georgia Congressional Black Caucus Scholarship  
18 Committee, and served on numerous civic and community boards focused on education,  
19 youth development, housing, and public safety; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Coleman's lifelong commitment to service earned him numerous honors  
21 including a DeKalb County History Maker in 2017 and 2026, a Lifetime Achievement  
22 Award presented during the administration of Joe Biden, and the Nathaniel Mosby  
23 Humanitarian Award; and

24 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Dr. Beverly Harris Coleman,  
25 and was blessed with two remarkable children, Jeffery and Donna; and his wonderful  
26 grandsons; and

27 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern  
28 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his  
29 family and friends were admired by others; and

30 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation  
31 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he  
32 made this world a better place in which to live; and

33 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Dr. Coleman will long be remembered for  
34 his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great  
35 fortune of knowing him.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
37 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Dr. Thomas L. Coleman  
38 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
40 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
41 family of Dr. Thomas L. Coleman.